

HARBOR APPALACHICOLA, FLORIDA.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING

*A Report and Estimate for completing the Improvement of the Harbor
and River Appalachicola, Florida.*

JANUARY 18, 1833.

Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

January 18, 1833.

SIR: In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 16th instant, I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a copy of the "report and estimate of Lieutenant Long for completing the improvement of the harbor and river Appalachicola, in Florida."

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

LEW. CASS.

Hon. ANDREW STEVENSON,

Speaker of the Ho. of Rep's.

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT,

Washington, January 17, 1833.

SIR: In compliance with your instructions, I have the honor to hand you, herewith, a copy of Lieutenant Long's "report and estimate for completing the improvement of the harbor and river Appalachicola, in Florida," called for by the resolution of House of Representatives of yesterday.

I am very respectfully, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

C. GRATIOT,

Chief Engineer.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,

Secretary of War.

MAGNOLIA, December 24, 1832.

SIR: At the request of Colonel White, Delegate from Florida, I have made an examination of the harbor of Appalachicola, and an estimate of the cost of improving it, which I here furnish you, by his desire, also.

You will see, by the accompanying sketch, the nature of the improvements necessary for the convenience of the trade of the place. The channel at present used for vessels to reach the town of Appalachicola is very circuitous, besides its being of a depth to admit vessels of light draught of water only: by it there is but about eight feet of water to the town. The natural channel for that branch of the river which runs by the town, is that which follows a straight course to St. George's Sound, and has been obstructed by the sand which has been washed from the sand bank at the east of it, by the winds and storms from that direction. This obstruction has the appearance of being many years in forming; and, from the fine and clay texture of the sand, which lays perfectly hard, it would probably be many years more before the channel would fill up again if left to itself, should it now be opened. The filling up of the channel could be further prevented by obstructing the present channel for the escape of the water, and reflecting it into the one improved. This could well be done by a single row of piles across it, driven 12 or 18 feet into the bottom, and securing their heads well together by strips on each side of them.

The trade of Appalachicola has increased to that extent which seems to claim this improvement from Government, besides the importance of it in a military point of view. Last year upwards of 16,000 bales of cotton was shipped from the port of Appalachicola, and a proportionable quantity of goods imported to the exports, besides great quantities of lumber, which is becoming a trade of considerable importance. It was here that the transports of provisions were delayed several weeks, at the risk of disastrous consequences, during the campaign into the Creek country. The United States' arsenal is to be located about 180 miles up the Appalachicola river; and recently a contract for navy timber has been made, for which a part of the supply is to be from the waters of this stream.

The following is an estimate of the cost of improvements here suggested to be made:

Expense in replacing worn out parts of machinery, repairs, &c., and removing to Appalachicola the machine and boats used in St. Mark's harbor	\$1,200
Hire and feed of one overseer and six hands, and wood for engine per day, \$11 80. Number of days' work to cut 800 yards in length, 30 in breadth, averaging one in depth, at 100 cubic yards per day, 240 days; time lost by bad weather 50,	3,422
To obstruct the present channel, 500 pine logs, 30 feet long, by 1 foot in diameter, at \$1 50	750
Boat and machinery for driving piles	500
120 days with overseer and four hands	900
Expenses on account of contingencies	2,000
Total amount required	<u>\$8,772</u>

With great respect, and esteem I have the honor to be, your ob't servant,

GEO. W. LONG,

Lieut. Artillery, on Engineer duty.